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FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Adjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in February, up one-tenth of a percentage point from January and lower than last February's rate by five-tenths of a point. The nation's seasonally adjusted rate in February was 5.4 percent increasing two-tenths of a percentage point since January. Compared to February 2004, the nation's seasonally adjusted rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower.

Unadjusted Data

The state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2005 showed improvement over February 2004, although a slight increase over the prior month. Wisconsin's rate was 5.8 percent in February, three-tenths of a percentage point lower than one year ago, but an increase of four-tenths of a percentage point over January 2005. Wisconsin's February unadjusted unemployment rate matched the national rate, also 5.8 percent in February; up one-tenth of a percentage point over January. The nation's unadjusted rate one year ago was 6.0 percent.

"February figures show a normal seasonal rise in unemployment but are also well below figures from one year ago. This improvement and the increase in non farm employment since February 2004, provides more evidence of Wisconsin's improving job market," Secretary Gassman said.

Preliminary estimates of the state's total nonfarm wage and salary employment measured 2,765,400 jobs. February's total was 15,700 jobs higher than January's final total of 2,749,700 jobs. Wisconsin has 38,100 more jobs than it did compared to February 2004 for growth of 1.4 percent. The industry sectors showing the most significant annual job growth were education and health services, up 12,000 jobs; government, up 6,000 jobs; construction, up 5,800 jobs; and manufacturing, up 5,300 jobs.

February employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available March 30. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. FEB 05	FINAL JAN 05	YEAR AGO FEB 04	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3047.5	3047.4	3060.4	0.1	-12.9
UNEMPLOYMENT	177.0	164.5	188.0	12.5	-11.0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.8	5.4	6.1	0.4	-0.3
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2870.5	2882.8	2872.4	-12.3	-1.9
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2765.4	2749.7	2727.3	15.7	38.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	2339.1	2338.3	2307	0.8	32.1
GOODS PRODUCING	614.2	611.1	603.4	3.1	10.8
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2.9	2.9	3.2	0.0	-0.3
CONSTRUCTION	113.4	111.9	107.6	1.5	5.8
MANUFACTURING	497.9	496.3	492.6	1.6	5.3
Durable Goods	312	308.7	304.8	3.3	7.2
Nondurable Goods	185.9	187.6	187.8	-1.7	-1.9
SERVICE PRODUCING	2151.2	2138.6	2123.9	12.6	27.3
TRADE	421.6	428.6	419.1	-7.0	2.5
Wholesale Trade	113.7	113.8	111.8	-0.1	1.9
Retail Trade	307.9	314.8	307.3	-6.9	0.6
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	104.1	104.7	103.4	-0.6	0.7
Utilities	11.4	11.4	11.4	0.0	0.0
Information	50.2	50.6	49.8	-0.4	0.4
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156.8	156.6	156.5	0.2	0.3
Finance and Insurance	129.6	129.4	130.1	0.2	-0.5
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27.2	27.2	26.4	0.0	0.8
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	241.6	239.3	241	2.3	0.6
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	87.9	86.1	89.6	1.8	-1.7
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	38.3	38.4	39.8	-0.1	-1.5
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	115.4	114.8	111.6	0.6	3.8
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	383.3	380.5	371.3	2.8	12.0
Educational Services	53.4	51.6	47.3	1.8	6.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	329.9	328.9	324	1.0	5.9
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	233.5	234.3	229.4	-0.8	4.1
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	28	28.7	28.4	-0.7	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	205.5	205.6	201	-0.1	4.5
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	133.8	132.6	133.1	1.2	0.7
GOVERNMENT	426.3	411.4	420.3	14.9	6.0
Federal Government	29.1	29.1	29.3	0.0	-0.2
State Government	107.9	101.7	101.6	6.2	6.3
Local Government	289.3	280.6	289.4	8.7	-0.1
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3072.3	3077.3	3078.6	-5.0	-6.3
UNEMPLOYMENT	150.4	148.8	167.0	1.6	-16.6
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.9	4.8	5.4	0.1	-0.5
EMPLOYMENT	2922.0	2928.5	2911.6	-6.5	10.4
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information